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<p style="text-align: center;">Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <small>Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</small></p>	Application Number	09/966686
	Filing Date	October 1, 2001
	First Names Inventor	Michael Austin
	Art Unit	3726
	Examiner Name	Marc Jimenez
	Attorney Docket Number	S63.2N-7405-US02

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114**a. Previously submitted**

- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on October 6, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

- i. Amendment/Reply (Pages _____)
- ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) (Pages _____)
- iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) (Pages _____)
- iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

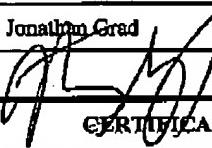
- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 22-0350.
- i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(c)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other: Any other fees necessitated by this communication.
- b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

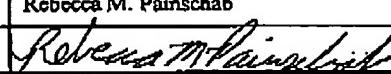
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Jonathan Grad	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41795
Signature		Date	October 16, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Rebecca M. Painschab		
Signature		Date	October 16, 2003

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OCT 17 2003

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:	Michael Austin
Application No.:	09/966,686
Filed:	October 1, 2001
For:	A Method and Apparatus for Contracting, Loading or Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon Expandable Stent Devices
Examiner:	Marc Jimenez
Group Art Unit:	3726

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2-7405-US02

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER
TO: Examiner Jimenez
FACSIMILE NO.: 703-872-9303
GROUP ART UNIT: 3726
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover letter): 2

DATE: October 16, 2003
TIME: 4:00 p.m.

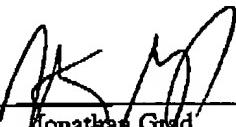
Following please find a 1 page copy of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and 1 page Facsimile Transmittal Letter.

If a fee is required, Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350 for any required fees. To the extent that any petition is required to consider this communication, please treat this as such a petition.

Respectfully Submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

Date: October 16, 2003

By: 
 Jonathan Grad
 Reg. No. 41,795

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
 Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
 Telephone: (952) 563-3000
 Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9303, on October 16, 2003.

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 Rebecca M. Painschab